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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Howard Bernstein, Donald E. Chickering, Sarwat Khattak and Julie Straub

Serial No.: 09/731,412

Art Unit: 1617

Filed: December 6, 2000

Examiner: E. J. Webman

For: *MATRICES FORMED OF POLYMER AND HYDROPHOBIC COMPOUNDS  
FOR USE IN DRUG DELIVERY*Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed February 5, 2002, and the telephone interview with the Examiner on February 21, 2002, please amend the application as follows.

## In the Claims

20. (twice amended) A method for administering a therapeutic or prophylactic agent comprising administering to a patient a [polymeric] matrix for delivery of a therapeutic or prophylactic agent,

wherein the matrix is formed of a biocompatible polymer having incorporated therein an therapeutic or prophylactic agent and an effective amount of a hydrophobic or amphiphilic compound to modify the diffusion of water into the matrix and the release of the therapeutic or prophylactic agent from the matrix, wherein the drug is released over shorter periods of time as compared to release from matrices not incorporating the hydrophobic or amphiphilic compound.